



Scratch and sub-scratch: Lord Patrick Crichton-Stuart (Hendy Hobo) awaits the fall of the flag in the final of the Folkestone Aero Trophy race, while Captain Percival prepares to start his Mew Gull, which had another ten minutes to wait. (Flight photograph.)

THE FOLKESTONE TROPHY

First of the Cinque Ports "Annuals" Won by Mr. R. Grubb (Aeronca) in Poor Weather

THE babies appear to be having it all their own way in this season's handicap races. This time it is the Folkestone Aero Trophy which has been won by an ultra-light, though if this particular machine, an Aeronca, had not been a little faster than any which have been raced before, there might have been a very different story. If Mr. K. K. Brown's Tiger Moth, too, had been as fast in the final as it was in its heat, this machine would have beaten the Aeronca by seven seconds, so one can hardly blame the handicappers.

In fact, the whole field, flying over a sixty-mile course, came home within a period of two and a half minutes, and it would appear that Messrs. Dancy and Rowarth had allowed for a light wind which was virtually non-existent during the final. Additionally, there was a low cloud-base, patches of heavy rain and a consistent haze over the whole course to handicap the pilots of the faster machines. At one period the organisers were doubtful whether it would even be possible to run the final on the appointed day.

Non-Starters

Out of an entry of twenty-three, only sixteen faced the starter in the heats, and one of these was not able to go away owing to last-minute insurance difficulties. Among the non-starters were two Puss Moths (one to be flown by Mr. Lipton) which had to be scratched as a result of the recent 120 m.p.h. limit order for these machines. Each of the remaining fifteen, therefore, had a much better chance of reaching the final, for which ten applicants were being selected. The course was exactly the same as that used for last year's event. From Lympe, competitors flew on as straight a line as possible to the Capel hangar, beyond Folkestone, dived over the cliff, turned around the Folkestone harbour light, flew along the coast to Hythe and turned at the gasworks to climb the steep hill up to Lympe, where a cross marked the turning point. And the hill was very steep for the little fellows!

In the first heat, Mr. Field-Richards led off the field with a four-minute start on Mr. Grubb's Aeronca. The scratch man was F/O A. E. Clouston, this time flying a Miles Sparrow Hawk. Unfortunately, his revolutions dropped steadily on the last two legs of his first lap, and he eventually came in with a blown plug. After this lap the order was otherwise unchanged save for the fact that Mr. K. K. Brown (Tiger Moth) had just managed to overtake Mr. C. H. Tutt's Gipsy Moth—to the delight of the commentator, Mr. W. E. Davis, whose entry it was. Lap two saw the gap between these two widen and the other gaps closing up. At the finish Mr. Brown had taken the lead from both the Cub and the Aeronca—whose pilot had been wasting twenty seconds a lap by turning around the hangars and, metaphorically speaking, running his wheels on the roadway behind, to the horror of the Air Ministry. Lord Crichton-Stuart (Hendy

Heat I.

Pilot.	Machine.	Handicap Allowance.	Flying Time.	Speed.
		min. sec.	min. sec.	m.p.h.
1. K. K. Brown ...	Tiger Moth...	15 42	32 27	109.0
2. P. Field-Richards	Taylor Cub...	28 53	45 55	77.0
3. R. Grubb ...	Aeronca ...	24 57	42 38	83.0
4. C. H. Tutt ...	D.H. Moth...	16 30	34 26	102.75
5. Lord Crichton-Stuart.	Hendy Hobo.	9 57	28 14	125.5
6. C. S. Hancock	Cessna ...	6 58	25 24	139.5
7. Mrs. Calthrop	D.H. Moth ...	15 05	33 47	104.75

Heat II.

1. L. T. H. Cliff ...	B.A. Swallow.	19 11	36 38	96.75
2. J. A. M. Du Port.	D.H. Moth Major.	14 47	32 18	109.5
3. A. J. S. Morris	D.H. Moth ...	17 00	35 22	100.25
4. E. W. Percival	Mew Gull ...	Scr.	18 40	190.0
5. R. F. Hall ...	Hillson Praga	21 12	40 39	87.25
6. Mrs. Macdonald	Hawk Major .	7 03	26 57	131.5

Final.

Pilot.	Machine.	Handicap Allowance.	Flying Time.	Speed.
		min. sec.	min. sec.	m.p.h.
1. R. Grubb ...	Aeronca ...	24 57	41 49	84.75
2. K. K. Brown	D.H. Tiger Moth.	15 42	32 47	108.0
3. P. Field-Richards.	Taylor Cub ...	28 53	46 06	76.75
4. L. T. H. Cliff	B.A. Swallow...	19 11	36 29	97.0
5. J. A. M. Du Port.	D.H. Moth Major.	14 47	32 15	109.75
6. C. H. Tutt ...	D.H. Moth ...	16 30	34 12	103.5
7. E. W. Percival	Mew Gull ...	Scr.	18 06	195.5
8. A. J. S. Morris	D.H. Moth ...	17 00	35 13	100.5
9. Lord Crichton-Stuart.	Hendy Hobo...	9 57	28 10	125.25
10. R. F. Hall ...	Hillson Praga...	21 12	40 36	87.25

Prizes.

Folkestone Aero Trophy (presented by the late W. Bentley, Esq.) and £50 (presented by the Mayor and citizens of Folkestone) went to Mr. R. Grubb.

Silver Medal and £25 (presented by Lord Wakefield) went to Mr. K. K. Brown.

Silver medal and £10 (presented by the Vice-presidents of the Cinque Ports Club) went to Mr. P. Field-Richards.

Folkestone Aero Speed Trophy (presented by Mrs. W. E. Davis) and £10 (presented by the Vice-presidents of the Cinque Ports Club) went to Capt E. W. Percival.